

# The Presbyterian of the South

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## VIRGINIA.

**Suffolk:** A few nights ago a Prayer Band was organized in this church. The band consists of men and women of the congregation who pledge themselves to pray regularly for the unconverted, and for the reconsecration of professing Christians, who are indifferent to Church duties. The band further proposes to talk to each class of people mentioned, in an attempt to lead to a decision for Christ and to a life of greater fidelity and usefulness.

**Severn, Gloucester County:** Thanksgiving will be a memorable day for Severn, for on that occasion the new church building was dedicated. The program began on Wednesday night and lasted through Thursday night. A well-arranged, abundant and splendid dinner was served by the ladies in the old church. Most of the ministers of all the denominations of the county attended and took part in the services. Dr. E. T. Wellford, of the First Church, Newport News, a beloved friend of the church, preached the dedicatory sermon on the text, "I will build my church." A splendid sermon that moved all hearts. Other ministers of the Presbytery were present and took part. Rev. T. H. Dimmock, of Norfolk, whose messages and presence are a benediction to any people. Rev. S. K. Emurian, of Norfolk, too, was with us and thrilled us by his fine singing and playing. Thursday night he delivered his lecture on, "How I Escaped from the Turks." Such a message draws one closer to God and to realize that we are of all peoples most blessed. The dedicatory prayer was made by the pastor, Rev. Thomas B. Ruff.

The building will seat about 350 people. About the auditorium or main body are three lean-to's that afford places for five private rooms for the Sunday-school and session. Radio equipment for receiving religious services and sacred concerts is being installed. The church is in a splendid shape, a spirit of unity and activity is manifested in everything. The Sunday School is most active. Good rounded periods with plenty of life and splendid liberality characterizes the school. The Men's Bible class has a Uve teacher, Mr. W. H. Fentress, a man who is getting a grip on his men for the Lord.

The church and day school go hand in hand. The pastor has a period weekly at the school as well as in another school in the county when at an assembly the following Sunday's S. S.

lesson and other Bible teaching and drilling are done. This is a most pleasant work and no activity that is so productive for good. A hundred children in the grades are reached weekly. Prizes are given for best maps drawn of Palestine, a prize to the pupil in each grade that does the best work throughout the entire year.

Thomas B. Ruff.

**Fieldale** is the new milling town on the Norfolk and Western Railroad, four miles from Martinsville, in Henry County. Here on a bend of the Smith River the Marshall Field Company, of Chicago, has projected one of the most complete towel-making plants in the United States.

At Fieldale the company has expended about three million dollars, as an initial expense, and propose to enlarge the work. About fifteen to eighteen hundred people have been brought to the town, and the company, it is understood, plans ultimately for a population of ten thousand persons.

The buildings already erected are substantial and those for public uses are built of brick and stucco. The hotel is a handsome building architecturally, and worthy of a large town. While the two rows of brick stores are commodiously and slightly, the streets are surfaced, and evidently were laid out by a landscape artist. They run between double rows of well segregated houses of varied design. On a commanding hill, too commanding to be convenient, stand the two churches, Baptist and Methodist, both built of stucco, and looking beautiful as they crown the hill. They were built with denominational and company money.

Now the Presbyterians at Fieldale, after a couple of years of tentative effort, under the leadership of Rev. C. H. Phipps, pastor of the church at Martinsville, have a small but interested congregation. Lately Rev. A. Sidney Venable, Superintendent of Home Missions of the Roanoke Presbytery, and Rev. C. W. Maxwell, chairman of the Home Mission Committee, have secured for the Fieldale charge the services of Rev. Drysdale Moses, whose work as an evangelist the past summer has been greatly blessed of God. He has recently held a tent meeting here, and with such success that the congregation feels greatly encouraged, and ready for a forward movement. Mr. Moses, after looking over the field, and perceiving the limitations under which the other denominations labor there, proposes to erect an institutional church, to be built with the main auditorium for church services, special emphasis being placed on evangelistic work, with plenty of equipment for good music, etc., and the basement to be supplied with reading rooms, baths, welfare department, etc. In short, it will be a Y. M. C. A., all under the direction of the pastor and, if possible, a special community worker as assistant.

There can be no doubt of the utility of this plan, and that Mr. Moses understands the situation, and with characteristic energy proposes to "strike while the iron is hot." What he wishes to do is to get the gospel to the people, and to manifest that gospel in a service that will attract them to the Sunday school and services of the church.

Superintendent Venable and Mr. Maxwell are to be congratulated on securing the services of such a man as Mr. Moses; but it is hardly to be expected that a talented evangelist, one of the best in the Synod of Virginia, will remain at Fieldale, unless an effort is made by those in authority to second his plans. We hope, therefore, that the brethren will hold

up his hands, and that a great work will be established here.

C. C. Dellinger.  
J. H. Harris,

## ALABAMA.

**Bessemer:** Dr. F. O. Hellier has tendered his resignation of the pastorate of the First Church, of this city, very much to the regret of the entire membership of the church. The resignation will not take effect until July 1, 1923.

**Huntsville:** The First Church remembered the Near East Relief cause on the morning of Sunday, December 10, at which time a cash offering of one hundred and twenty-five dollars was given for that purpose.

**Opelika:** Since the coming of Rev. W. Bruce Doyle from Springfield, Mo., last May this congregation has erected a new six thousand dollar manse. It is a brick, one-story, seven-room house next door to the church building, which is almost new.

## APPALACHIA.

**White Pine:** Rev. W. Bruce Doyle, a former pastor, visited this church for a five-day meeting, including December 10. This was a joyful meeting for both the minister and people. Six new members were received, four were baptized and the Lord's Supper was celebrated. The church has been without a pastor since Dr. R. D. Carson left it.

## ARKANSAS.

**Pine Bluff First:** Fifty members have been added to the church since the opening of the present pastorate on September 1. The men's work is an outstanding feature. Besides the weekly luncheon of the Laymen's Club at Hotel Rives, after the manner of Rotary and other luncheon clubs, a banquet was participated in by one hundred and twenty-seven of the men of the church and congregation on the evening of December 14. The women's work is also prospering. The pastor, Rev. R. Excer Fry, teaches a large interdenominational Bible class of women every Thursday afternoon.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

**Washington:** The annual Christmas GIVING exercises of the Sunday School of the Central Church were held Friday night, December 15, in order that the gifts might reach their various destinations before Christmas. Besides books and toys, the money contribution amounts to \$460, with perhaps a little more to come.

A. H.

## GEORGIA.

**Atlanta:** A unique program was that which occupied a recent Wednesday hour when five organizations of the West End church, Rev. W. S. Wilson, pastor, competitively reviewed Dr. McMillan's book, "Unfinished Tasks," before a large and delighted audience. The organizations in the order of participation were: The Men's Association, Business Woman's Circle, Junior Christian Endeavor, Senior Christian Endeavor, and Auxiliary.

The Men's Association, under guise of a class taught by Mr. George White, elder, and member of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, reviewed the first two chapters. Questions, the answers to which produced the salient facts, were propounded and answered in a way that gave the impression of a fine spontaneity, the teacher using the blackboard to summarize with telling effect.

The chapter on Colored Missions was reviewed by the Business Woman's Circle. Two of the members met on the platform, as if by accident.

One had been to the Mission Study Class, where Dr. McMillan's book had been studied. The other had read the book and was especially interested in the chapter on Negro Missions. One by one the members dropped in contributing their quotas to the discussion. It was agreed that the soul of the Negro found expression in their religious songs. This paved the way for the singing of "Standing in the Need of Prayer."

With the assistance of charts the Junior Endeavor presented its chapter.

The cleverest idea was that of the Senior Endeavor. The boys staged a meeting of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, each boy impersonating a member. The various sub-committees were called upon for reports. Girls, costumed to represent the different races to which the committee ministers, appeared to appeal for larger support. To them the committee found it necessary to reply that until the church was more liberal their requests must be refused.

The part of the Auxiliary, while it involved no unique method, could not have been improved upon.

The uniform merit of the presentation, and the diversity of the contestants, made the decision difficult. It was awarded to the men.

Food for meditation was contained in the overheard remark of a member of the Auxiliary, "We got what we went after, the decision does not matter."

The program required two hours. Interest was sustained throughout. The enthusiasm, good-fellowship, fine men calling each other by their given names, and the splendid attention proclaimed a church active and functioning in all its parts. Under Dr. Wilson's leadership the Sunday School has added one hundred members within the year.

E. V. Tadlock.

**Athens Presbytery** at a recent called meeting dismissed Rev. John C. Langford to the Presbytery of Lyons, Synod of New York, U. S. A. For three years Mr. Langford has served the churches of Comer, Danielsville and New Hope, where he has done excellent work. He has been called back to his former charge in North Rose, New York, under circumstances that indicate a clear intimation of the divine will.

## KENTUCKY.

**Shoulder Blade:** Rev. H. L. Cockerham, the pastor at Quicksand, and who is also engaged in evangelistic work part of the time, has recently held a meeting at Shoulder Blade in Breathitt County. There was a fine attendance during the ten days and about twenty-five reconsecrations, most of them grown men. At Old Buck, near this place, during this revival there were seven conversions, all of the converts coming into the Presbyterian church. This was considered a very unusual meeting, and the people of that community are very much encouraged and the church has taken on new life. Mrs. Neal has charge of the work at Shoulder Blade, and she, with another lady worker, are doing good work.

**Canoe:** Rev. H. L. Cockerham has recently been to this point in West Lexington Presbytery and conducted a communion service on the Sabbath, and at the close four young ladies were received into the church. Mrs. Patsey Turner has charge of that school, and Mr. Alex Spencer, a graduate of Highland College and also of Centre College, has charge of the church work and Sabbath school.

**West Lexington Presbytery:** We would suggest that during the Christ-